

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13 OES-07 EB-08 L-03
ACDA-12 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 /144 W
-----021924 221901Z /72

P 240414Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7436

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 09940

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PLOS, UK
SUBJECT: LOS: ARCULUS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON;
U.S.-U.K. BILATERAL

REF: (A) STATE 156467; (B) STATE 157763;
(C) STATE 157507; (D) LONDON 9605

1. EMBASSY DELIVERED TO U.K. AMBASSADOR ARCULUS'
OFFICE AFTERNOON JUNE 22 BOTH JUNE 7 RICHARDSON LETTER
WITH REFTEL B ENCLOSURE AND RICHARDSON LETTER FORWARDED
UNDER TRANSMITTAL SLIP DATED JUNE 17. IN ARCULUS'
ABSENCE, ALLAN RAMSAY OF FCO TOOK DELIVERY AND RESPONDED
TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL A. BOTH LETTERS AND REFTEL A
REACHED EMBASSY MORNING JUNE 22.

2. AS PER REFTEL C, ARCULUS PLANS TO MEET WITH RICHARD-
SON IN WASHINGTON MORNING OF THURSDAY, JULY 6. HIS
PRESENT SCHEDULE IS TO ARRIVE 1450 JULY 5 ON BA FLIGHT
191 AND LEAVE WASHINGTON AT 2100 JULY 6 ON BA
FLIGHT 190.

3. ARCULUS WISHES TO USE HIS LETTER OF JUNE 8 TO
RICHARDSON AS THE INITIAL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. HE
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BELIEVES THAT THEY SHOULD EXCHANGE THOUGHTS ABOUT
TACTICS SINCE HOLDING SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON AUGUST 17
WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR FRUITFUL COORDINATION OF U.S.
AND U.K. EFFORTS. ARCULUS WISHES TO DISCUSS
EUROPEAN VIEWS AND REACTIONS TO THE NJENGA TEXTS
WHICH MAY BE STRONGER THAN THE U.S. REALIZES. IN
ADDITION, HE WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW BRIEFLY THE PROGRESS

OF SEABED MINING LEGISLATION AND DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SUPPLIES OF SEABED MINERALS OF THE RECENT EVENTS IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY ZAIRE.

4. ARCULUS ALSO WISHES TO DISCUSS IN CONFIDENCE PROBABLE U.S. REACTIONS IF THE U.K. WERE TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FRANCE HAS ALREADY DONE SO. IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT ACCIDENT OF THE GREEK TANKER ELENI V AND THE SUBSEQUENT WIDESPREAD AND UNCONTROLLED POLLUTION ALONG THE ENGLISH EAST COAST, THE PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN CARRYING ON HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESSURE HAS BEEN GROWING FOR CONTROL OF SHIPPING OFF VULNERABLE ENGLISH COASTS AND FOR SPEEDIER AND MORE CERTAIN COMPENSATION FOR FISHING AND SHORE ACTIVITIES DAMAGED BY POLLUTION.

5. FINALLY, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20, ARCULUS WAS VISITED BY MR. SEN OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AALCC) BASED IN NEW DELHI. SEN INVITED ARCULUS TO A JULY 31-AUGUST 3 MEETING OF THE AALCC IN NEW DELHI TO DISCUSS SEABED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE DEFINITION OF THE MARGIN. SEN INVITED THE U.K. AS A PARTICIPANT RATHER THAN AN OBSERVER AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO EXTEND SIMILAR INVITATIONS TO THE U.S.(RICHARDSON), USSR (MIN. CONFIDENTIAL

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KOZYREV), FRANCE, NORWAY (EVENSON), JAPAN, EGYPT, IRAQ, PERU, BRAZIL, TANZANIA, KENYA, AND ONE OTHER AFRICAN STATE.

6. ARCULUS HAS EMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY GREAT IMPORTANCE HE PLACES ON COORDINATION OF U.S.-U.K. LOS EFFORTS AND OF ACHIEVING COMMON VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED IN HIS LETTER OF JUNE 8. ON JUNE 9, HE CALLED IN MINISTER MILLER AND EMBASSY LOS OFFICE AND HANDED OVER A COPY OF HIS JUNE 8 LETTER WHICH HE SAID WAS BEING HAND-DELIVERED BY U.K. EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AMONG OTHER POINTS, HE STRESSED THAT BRITISH COMPANIES INVOLVED IN DEEP SEABED MINING CTNSORTIUMS WKBRITISH PETROLEUM, RIO TINTO, AND CONSOLIDATEE GOLE FIELDS, ALL IN KENNECOTT GROUP, PLUS SHELL) ARE UNHAPPY WITH PROGRESS MADE ON SEABED MINING TEXTS, AND U.K. LOS DEL'S VIEW IS RELATIVELY IN AGREEMENT WITH THAT VIEW. U.K. FEARS THAT LDC'S MAY BE GETTING THE WRONG SIGNALS FROM RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS AND MAY BELIEVE THAT U.S. IS READY TO ACCEPT A "SOFT DEAL" ON SEABED MINING. IN OTHER AREAS, THE U.K. IS ALSO MOE DISSATISFIEE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7437

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 09940

THAN THE U.S. APPEARS TO BE. U.K. DISLIKES THE LL/GDS
COMPROMISE ON ACCESS TO LIVING RESOURCES OF COASTAL
ZONES BECAUSE IT MAY OPEN EUROPEAN AND NORTH SEA
WATERS TO FISHING BY BULGARIANS AND RUMANIANS WHO DO
NOT HAVE CLAIM TO FISH ON BASIS OF TRADITIONAL
FISHING IN AREA. (EMBASSY OFFICER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH
BULGARIANS DURING RECENT U.S.-BULGARIAN MARITIME TALKS
IN LONDON, REF D, CONFIRMED THAT BULGARIANS HAVE
STRONG DESIRE AND CAPACITY TO FISH IN NORTH SEA.)

7. ON THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN, U.K. FEELS IT IS
ESSENTIAL TO GET SOVIETS TO BACK OFF. U.K. COULD SEE
ITSELF NEEDING TO GO OUT AS FAR AS 600 MILES. U.K.
HAS APPRECIATED U.S. BACKING. ARCULUS SAID, AS HAD AN-
OTHER U.K. LOS OFFICER SOON AFTER CLOSE OF SESSION
IN GENEVA, THAT IF THE MARGIN QUESTION COULD NOT BE
SETTLED TO U.K. SATISFACTION, IT MIGHT NOT BE IN
THE U.K. INTEREST TO HAVE ANY TREATY AT ALL. ON THE
OTHER HAND, ARCULUS ALSO SAID THAT U.K. REGARDED ANY-
THING BUT A TREATY AS A BAD ALTERNATIVE. ARCULUS RE-
PEATEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AND U.K. STICKING
TOGETHER. IN THIS REGARD, HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT INTRO-
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DUCTION OF U.S.-CANADIAN COMPROMISE ON PRODUCTION
LIMITATIONS, BOTH SUBSTANTIVELY AND IN THE WAY IT WAS
INTRODUCED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION. HE ARGUED
THAT AT THIS POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IT WAS NECES-
SARY THAT THE U.S. AND THE U.K. ACT TO FORM A GROUP
TO INCLUDE THE U.S., THE EEC COUNTRIES, JAPAN AND
PERHAPS CANADA, THAT WOULD STICK TOGETHER MORE
SOLIDLY THAN THOSE COUNTRIES HAD IN THE PAST AND THUS
CONVINCE THE OTHER BLOCS IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS
THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN FUNDAMENTALS WITHOUT WHICH
WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE A TREATY.

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